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# Travel in Great Britain

By DUANE P. SWANSON

The September 2004 issue of the *Swedish American Genealogist*, page 31, contains a question about Swedish immigrants traveling via Glasgow.

While I am no expert in the story of Swedish immigration, I can contribute the following: My great-grandmother and her parents and siblings received permission to emigrate from the parish of Sund, Östergötland, 17 May 1882; on 26 May they boarded the *ångfartyget Romeo* at Göteborg bound for Hull (according to the Police Emigration Registers). They carried a contract (#724) with a destination through to Pine City, Minnesota, issued by Agent Leonard Borg.

I can only presume that they really disembarked at Hull. I can verify, however, that for the transatlantic voyage, they boarded on 2 June 1882, the steamship *Ethiopia* of the Anchor Line in Glasgow. According to that ship's manifest, the *Ethiopia* also embarked passengers at Moville on 3 June and arrived in New York City on 15 June. The manifest notes that the *Ethiopia* carried 724 passengers, mostly Scotch and Irish with some Germans and a very few Swedes. Family tradition or records do not tell of the travel from Hull to Glasgow.

However, in an investigation report commissioned by the London Board of Trade, dated 30 May 1882, Charles P. Wilson, an investigator who had taken the *Romeo* from Göteborg to Hull in May 1882 notes: "Agents of the Atlantic passenger lines meeting the immigrants on arrival, take charge of their respective parties, see to the forwarding of the baggage, and then conduct them to houses, where they obtain breakfast or dinner, as the case may be, and afterwards lead them to the railway, providing each person with a ticket to his or her desti-

nation....The immigrants...for Glasgow were to be forwarded in the evening, there being too few of the latter for conveyance by special train...."

From this, I can only conclude that, at least by 1882, trains conveyed immigrants to Glasgow. [These reports are transcribed on [www.norwayheritage.com](http://www.norwayheritage.com) and contain much greater description of the conditions aboard the *Romeo* and of the immigrants' experiences upon arriving at Hull.]

The *North British Daily Mail* newspaper, published in Glasgow, on Thursday, 1 June 1882, announced the sailing of the *Ethiopia* on 3 June. "Passengers by this Direct Service from Glasgow to New York. Can be forwarded thence to all parts of the United States and Canada, And to the Province of Manitoba, as cheaply and expeditiously as by any other line or route...."

The passengers from Sund were:

*Karl Adam Johannesson*, born at Gällerstena, Sund, Östergötland, 23 October 1832, son of Johannes Johansson and Maja Lena Olofsdotter; died 28 April 1907 in Royalton Township, Pine County, Minnesota.

His wife, *Johanna Katharina Jonsdotter*, born at Fruhammar, Norra Vi, Östergötland, 25 December 1834, daughter of Jonas Olofsson and Ingri Samuelsdotter, died 5 October 1908 in Royalton Township, Pine County, Minnesota.

Their son, *Carl Gustaf Ferdinand Karlsson*, born at Funsboda, Svinhult, Östergötland, 13 March 1864; died 15 September 1953 in Royalton Township, Pine County, Minnesota.

Their daughter, *Alma Karolina Karlsdotter*, born in Svinhult, 27 January 1866; died 9 October 1958, in Braham, Isanti County, Minnesota.

Their son, *Johan Emil Karlsson*, born at Smedstorp, Funsboda, Svin-

hult, 1 March 1868; died in Braham, Isanti County, Minnesota, 8 July 1948.

Their son, *Albert Karlsson*, born at Älmeshult, Sund, 25 November 1874; died 16 October 1956 in Royalton Township, Pine County, Minnesota.

This family had two older daughters whose work contracts did not allow them to emigrate with the family. These daughters joined the family in Minnesota in 1883; two additional sons and two additional daughters had died in Sund prior to emigration.

Alma was my great-grandmother. I might add that virtually no family stories covering the immigration have survived, except that they disembarked the train at Pine City, Minnesota, and walked to the home of *Peter Magnus Jonsson Sandell* (born 1824 in Sund) and his wife *Christina Andersdotter* (born in Sund, 1818), in what would become Grass Lake Township, Kanabec County, Minnesota. The distance was about 18 miles. The Sandells had emigrated 28 April 1875 from Sund.

I also have to presume that Karl Adam's family was familiar with the immigration process, not only because of the connections with other immigrant families, but because one of his own cousins, *Gustav Börjesson*, born in Sund 21 June 1833; died 11 October 1900 at Hector, Renville County, Minnesota, had immigrated to Minnesota on 24 June 1852. I can not document any correspondence, but it would not be inconceivable that the two cousins were in touch with each other.

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